

2000 Annual Report Highlights

For the second time since 1993, Cambridge recorded an increase (although minimal) in serious crime in 2000. The Crime Index total rose by 46 incidents, a one percent increase when compared with the 1999 totals. This slight incline in the crime rate should be tempered by the fact that the 1999 Index total was the lowest recorded in Cambridge in 35 years and the 2000 count of 4389 incidents represents the second fewest incidents reported in a calendar year since 1965. Serious crime in Cambridge has plummeted 53% since 1975 and 37% when compared with the 1990 figures.

Murder

- Cambridge experienced one murder in the year 2000. A Hampshire street resident was shot to death on the morning of February 6th. A suspect was quickly identified but he eluded capture until July. The assailant was an acquaintance of the victim. He is currently awaiting trial on murder charges.
- Murders in Cambridge usually fall into three situational types: domestic, drug or gang related, and homeless against homeless.
- The two murders in 1999 included the September 18 slaying of a Boston man outside the Hi-Fi Pizza in Central Square and the Christmas Eve murder of a Boston man in the CambridgeSide Galleria parking garage. The suspect in the Galleria case was apprehended in Lisbon Portugal in July of 2000. The Central Square slaying remains under investigation.

Rape

- For the second consecutive year, there were eleven rapes reported in Cambridge. These two counts are the lowest totals for this crime in Cambridge since 1965. Over the past 30 years; Cambridge has averaged 33 rapes per year.
- The 11 rapes included seven acquaintance rapes, one domestic rape, two "blitz"-style street rapes, and one incident classified as a home invasion.
- In an average year, investigators clear 70 to 80 percent of all reported rapes. This year, the Sexual Assault Unit cleared 82% of the cases

Robbery

- Robbery increased 13% in 2000 when compared with last year's figures. Commercial robberies increased 28% and street robberies rose 11% for a combined total of 21 more incidents than in 1999.
- Saturday is the most probable day of the week for street robberies. Temporal analysis of this crime reveals that 25% to 35% of the incidents occur between 8:00PM and midnight.
- The age of robbery offenders ranged from 14 to 46, with an average age of 22. Victims were 27% female and 73% male.
- Commercial robbery increased from 18 incidents in 1999 to 23 this year. From 1970 to 1990, Cambridge averaged 100 commercial robberies annually. Starting in 1990 that average nose-dived with nine declines registered in the ten-year period. Increased security measures applied by businesses appear to be the major contributing factor to this decline.

Aggravated Assault

- Aggravated assaults continue to drop with a 7% reduction recorded in 2000. Assault totals peaked in 1993 when 643 incidents were reported. Over the past eight years, this violent crime has been in a steady decline with 2000 count of 322 aggravated assaults the lowest total since 1986.
- Domestic altercations accounted for 35% of all aggravated assaults, followed by juvenile/ gang related incidents, which comprise 13% of the reports.
- Unprovoked assaults registered a dramatic drop of 50% in 2000. The majority of this increase can be traced to fewer incidents in Harvard and Central Squares.

Burglary

- Burglary has plummeted 76% since 1980 and 61% since 1990. The 2000 total is the lowest burglary statistic recorded in Cambridge in over forty years.
- There were two major commercial burglary patterns in Cambridge during 2000. The first involved a pair of drifters from Washington State. This prolific duo targeted Laundromats in Cambridge and surrounding cities and were finally arrested after nearly 20 incidents fleeing from a break on Oxford Street. A husband and wife team were arrested in September and linked to over 20 breaks into a Kendal Square construction site.
- The dramatic decrease in housebreaks can be attributed to the demise of the professional burglar who was personally responsible for between 200 to 300 crimes per year.

Larceny

- Larceny is the most frequently reported Part 1 Crime, accounting for 64% of the Serious Crime Index in Cambridge each year.
- Larceny is broken into nine sub-categories. The three classifications that recorded increases in 2000 were: Larceny from persons (+29%), theft of bicycles (+12%), and from buildings (+2%)
- Nearly seventy percent of the larcenies of company property from offices involve the theft of laptop computers.
- Larcenies of diners' property continue to be a problem in the Harvard Square business district. Thieves steal wallets from coats and purses hanging over, or sitting under, the diners' chairs.

Auto Theft

- The 2000 auto theft total of 498 incidents, although up 16% from 1999, still represents a decrease of 81% from twenty years ago and a 63% decline from 1990.
- A composite profile of the auto thief in Cambridge is that of a male, between 27 to 30 years of age, who has been a prior arrest for this crime
- Seventy percent of the vehicles stolen in Cambridge in 2000 were recovered. The majority of the recoveries continue to be made in the Dorchester section of Boston.
- The areas of Norfolk Street, Bishop Allen Drive and 800 block of Main St were the major auto theft hot spots identified in 2000.
- East Cambridge, Area 4 and Cambridgeport dominated that auto theft totals during the 1990s and were the top three-neighborhood total generators in 2000.

